

MINUTES OF THE OPEN SESSIONCOUNCIL OF THE GINA CODY SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING AND COMPUTER SCIENCE

Friday, April 17, 2020

PRESENT:Chair: Asif, A.Voting members: Agarwal, A.; Ait Mohamed, O.; Akgunduz, A.; Alecsandru, C.; Bagchi, A.; Ben Hamza, A.; Carr, G.; Chen, M.; Contreras, I.; De Visscher, A.; Debbabi, M.; El Ayoubi, C.; Fancott, T.; Fayyaz, F.; Ge, H.; Gopakumar, G.; Hammad, A.; Hashtrudi Zad, S.; Lucia, W.; Manirov, V.; Narayanan, L.; Nourani, H.; Ordonselli, S.; Paraschivoiu, M.; Pugh, M.; Shayan, Y. R.; Shiri, N.; Soliman, A.; Stathopoulos, T.; Stojda, A.; Terekhov, D.; Thiel, S.; Whitelaw, A.; Youssef, A.; Zahangir Kabir, M.; Zeng, Y.Non-Voting members: Howse, E.; Little, G.; Pawelek, P.; Udvud, E; Ward, M.Observers: Allaire, V.; Clarke, A.; De Melo, D.; Fiorentino, N.; Gosselin, G.; Himmo, M.; Martel, C.ABSENT:Voting members: Butler, G.; Goyal, N.; Gueheneuc, Y.-G.; Maistre, M.; Mariotti Lapointe, J.; Mehmet Ali, M.; Silber, J.; Singh, M.; Ye, Z.Non-voting members: Kraulis, I.Observers: Miatello, M.1. Call to order of the Open Session

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:35 p.m. The Chair thanked all staff and faculty members for their support in making sure that the Winter 2019-2020 semester is completed. Despite all the challenges, we will be successful in ending the semester on schedule.

2. Adoption of the Agenda*Motion 2020-04-01**Upon motion duly moved and seconded (S. Thiel / T. Fancot), it was passed that the Agenda be adopted with the following correction: items 4 and 6 to be combined under one section, in Chair's Remarks.**Vote: Carried unanimously*3. Approval of the Minutes of Open Session ECFC 2020-03 – March 6, 2020*Motion 2020-04-02**Upon motion duly moved and seconded (N. Shiri / F. Fayyaz), it was passed that the Minutes be approved as submitted.**Vote: Carried unanimously*4. Chair's Remarks

- A COVID-19 working group was created and is meeting couple of times per week to support the transition to online platforms and establish new processes.
- We had a meeting with our graduate and undergraduate student associations, receiving their comments and concerns about how the university is moving forward in the current

environment. Summer course delivery will be online and we are certainly taking the comments expressed during that meeting into account.

- The university remains closed and inaccessible.
- Some of our faculty members are involved in COVID-19 related research activities, either supporting ongoing work by the province or developing new solutions. Professor Luis Rodrigues, ECE, participated in a Facebook live event organized by 4th space. He spoke about his work on developing an emergency response drone.
- A story is coming out about Professor Rolf Wuthrich, MIAE, and his students who are working on manufacturing visor pieces for the fight against COVID-19.
- Professor Alex De Visscher, CME, elaborated a COVID-19 epidemiological model for community and policy makers and made it available through YouTube and LinkedIn.
- We're still looking for information about how our faculty members, students, and staff are participating in ongoing projects related to COVID-19. Please send any information to Ali Akungduz so we can follow-up with them individually.
- A minute of silence was held following the announcement that Principal Director of Development Michelle Miatello's son had passed away in a tragic accident.

5. Associate Dean Remarks

Ali Akgunduz, *Associate Dean, Academic Programs & Undergraduate Activities*

- Students, staff, and faculty members are coping with the stressful situation we are in. Given the circumstances, we are moving forward to the final stage of exams. Meanwhile, we are still working on accreditation and continuous improvement processes. We are relying on getting the assessments from your courses and submitting them in a timely manner.
- The emergency adjustment of grading system has been accepted by the CEAB.

Anjali Agarwal, *Associate Dean of Student Academic Services and Equity, Diversity and Inclusion*

- We are processing all applications through email. Adaptation to online admissions and transfers processes is going very well.
- The university has developed policies on different procedures for student related issues during the COVID-19 pandemic. A large variety of questions, for example pass/fail, the 200 before 400 rule, C- rule, and late DISCs are provided in the COVID-19 online FAQs; please refer to these before providing answers to any questions.
- Admissions for undergraduate programs is a little bit higher than for the same period last year due to changes in the process. Admissions are currently open for all groups until June 1.

Marius Paraschivoiu, *Associate Dean, Academic Affairs*

- Congratulated everyone for the efficient switch to online classes and acknowledged the contribution of AITS personnel for their constant assistance.
- All workload letters for faculty members will be available by May 1.

Mourad Debbabi, *Associate Dean, Research and Graduate Studies*

- Thanked all graduate program directors, GPAs, chairs and faculty members who served on examination committees, thesis defenses and facilitated during these challenging times.
- We have received the results of the Insight Grants competition. Professor Govind Gopakumar, CES, received an award in the amount of \$280,995.
- We have the results from NSERC RTI competition. Professor Saifur Rahaman, BCEE, was awarded \$100,000 for one year and Professor Muthu Packirisamy, MIAE, was awarded \$140,000.

- Next week there will be an update regarding NSERC Discovery Grants. Meanwhile, the agency announced the extension of any active Discovery Grants for another year. The information has been distributed to all faculty members.
- The university took measures to allow a no cost extension of CURCs. Six month extensions are available.
- We have received the highest graduate award allocations: \$1.8M for entrance awards and \$7M in tuition waivers for the international students. Half of the entrance awards is allocated, and there are still a number of tuition waivers available. We expect high competition among universities on recruiting students who are already present in Canada. Concordia University is acting aggressively to distribute allocations.
- In graduate enrolments, we have a drop of around 10% in admissions due to the COVID-19 crisis. To mitigate the current situation measures to establishing fast tracking from Master's program to PhD will be taken.

6. Curriculum Changes

- a) Graduate Curriculum Proposal for the 2020-21 Academic Year, Department of Chemical and Materials Engineering, (ECFC 2020-04-01)

*Motion 2020-04-03 Upon motion duly moved and seconded (M. Debbabi / A. De Visscher), it was passed that document ECFC 2020-04-01, be ratified as submitted.
Vote: Carried unanimously*

- b) Graduate Curriculum Proposal for the 2020-21 Academic Year, Department of Building, Civil and Environmental Engineering (ECFC 2020-04-04)

*Motion 2020-04-04 Upon motion duly moved and seconded (M. Debbabi / A. Bagchi), it was passed that document ECFC 2020-04-04, be ratified as submitted.
Vote: Carried unanimously*

7. Ratification of Elections (ECFC 2020-04-02)

*Motion 2020-04-05 Upon motion duly moved and seconded (M. Paraschivoiu / M. Debbabi), it was passed that document ECFC 2020-04-05, Ratification of Elections be ratified as submitted.
Vote: Carried unanimously*

8. Committee Reports (ECFC 2020-04-03)

Reports were submitted for the following committees:

- Arts and Science Faculty Council
- Board of Governors

9. Other Business

A surprise farewell to Dr. Amir Asif

10. Adjournment at 5:17 p.m.

Erica Howse
Secretary of Faculty Council
Gina Cody School of Engineering & Computer Science